How Arbor and Cantium brought Five Acre Wood School into the 21st century

"I liken Arbor to a spiderweb, with all the information accessible across the system, rather than having to look in multiple places for things. In essence, Arbor gives you joined-up working."

Five Acre Wood School is an outstanding all age (2-19) District Special School for children with learning difficulties, physical disabilities and autism. Spread over three sites, they have been using Arbor since September 2021.

Before Arbor

Five Acre Wood's impetus to move to Arbor was the rigidity of their previous MIS. There was a growing need for staff to be able to access information and take action any time, anywhere.

Moving to a cloud-based MIS therefore became a priority to take away the reliance on servers. All the more important given that the team work across multiple sites and have 750 students from nursery through to college age.

SARAH BRETT, DATA ADMINISTRATION OFFICER
FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL

All through special school

Students: 750

Located: Maidstone

Support: Cantium

Moving to Arbor

Sarah Brett, Data Administration Officer at the school, was given the task of managing the move to Arbor. She felt extremely supported in the migration, with weekly meetings to alleviate any concerns along the way.

From the wider Five Acre Wood team, there were some fears that the migration would take or constrain access to information or that the system would be unfamiliar and difficult. But staff were impressed with the intuitive nature of the MIS, which meant they could make the most of Arbor from day one.

Working with Cantium support

It was critical for Five Acre Wood, as with any school, that their MIS worked well from the day the system went live. The smoothness of the migration and training, along with clear timelines and avenues of support meant Sarah felt it was easy to fix any issues with Arbor.

The school now sits with Cantium support, who Five Acre Wood feel understand the Arbor system and their school well. They speak with Cantium on a weekly basis to sort out any minor issues the school might have, meaning the process is smooth and things can be sorted quickly.

The difference Arbor has made

Arbor has, in Sarah's own words, brought Five Acre Wood School 'into the 21st century.'

From reports and joined-up pupil data, to meals and payments, the Five Acre Wood team have been able to realise the extent of Arbor's benefits to fit the unique needs of their school and the 750 students they support.

> "
> I felt fully supported throughout the migration process. My project manager was amazing. Really supportive, kept an eye on any issues and fixed anything that needed to be fixed.
> "
>
> SARAH BRETT

Arbor

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Did you know...
Arbor Education is built using AWS Services such as S3 and Relational Database Services (RDS) such as Aurora MySQL, which are up to 5 times more energy efficient than typical European data centres.